

District Judge James L. Robart

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

SEA SHEPHERD LEGAL,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, *et*  
*al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. C19-463 JLR

JOINT STATUS REPORT AND  
~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER

Noted for Consideration:  
November 8, 2019

*JLR*

Plaintiff SEA SHEPHERD LEGAL ("SSL") filed the above-captioned lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") against Defendants NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ("NOAA") and NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICES ("NMFS"), seeking disclosure of certain documents. On October 11, 2019, the Court granted the parties' stipulated motion to stay the dispositive briefing schedule. Dkt. No. 19. Defendants began processing additional documents in response to Plaintiff's FOIA requests at issue in this case, as well as Plaintiff's supplemental FOIA request in a related case pending before the Court. *Sea Shepherd Legal v. NOAA, et al.* 19-cv-1485-JLR.

1 Since the Court granted the parties' stipulated motion, Defendants have conducted  
2 a search of potentially responsive records between December 21, 2018 and March 18,  
3 2019 ("Gap Documents"). On November 4, 2019, Defendants fully released 191 Gap  
4 Documents. Defendants are currently processing approximately 300 Gap Documents and  
5 anticipate a release on or about November 19, 2019. This production will constitute the  
6 final release of Gap Documents. Defendants will then process documents responsive to  
7 Plaintiff's FOIA requests for the period that runs to October 9, 2019.

8 The parties believe that responding to the supplemental FOIA request, with the  
9 inclusion of the gap period, may lead to the resolution of both this case and the related  
10 case without the need for additional judicial intervention.

11 Accordingly, for good cause as described above, the parties respectfully request  
12 that the Court allow the parties to file a status report on or before January 7, 2019.

13  
14 Dated this 8th day of November 2019.

15 Respectfully submitted,

16  
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18 BRETT W. SOMMERMEYER, WSBA # 30003

19 s/ Catherine E. Pruett  
20 CATHERINE E. PRUETT, WA BAR # 35140

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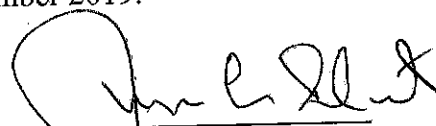
8 Email: [michelle.lambert@usdoj.gov](mailto:michelle.lambert@usdoj.gov)

9 *Attorneys for Defendants*

**PROPOSED ORDER**

Having reviewed the parties' stipulated motion, the Court finds good cause shown for the parties to continue working towards a resolution of this matter. The parties shall submit a joint status report to the Court on or before January 7, 20<sup>20</sup>~~19~~.

Dated this <sup>th</sup>12 day of November 2019.

  
**JAMES L. ROBART**  
United States District Judge